

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AF-10 ARA-10 CIAE-00
DODE-00 EA-07 EUR-12 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 IO-13
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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, CCD

SUBJECT: CCD: FOURTH INFORMAL MEETING ON PROGRAM OF WORK,
JULY 14, 1977

1. SUMMARY: DURING CCD'S JULY 14 INFORMAL MEETING ON ITS
PROGRAM OF WORK, US AND SOVIET REPS EXPRESSED OPPOSITION TO
CREATION OF WORKING GROUPS TO CONDUCT MULTILATERAL
NEGOTIATIONS ON A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN (CTB) AND ON
CHEMICAL WEAPONS (CW), AS WELL AS TO UK PROPOSAL FOR A
CW EXPERTS GROUP TO CONSIDER DEFINITIONS OF CW AGENTS AND
TECHNICAL QUESTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH CW STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION.
US AND USSR REPS CIRCULATED REVISED DRAFT PROGRAM OF WORK,
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EMBODYING MINOR CONCESSIONS IN WORDING TO MAKE AGENDA MORE
FLEXIBLE WITH RESPECT TO FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF
WORKING GROUP QUESTION AND LATE-AUGUST INFORMAL MEETINGS
ON CW. END SUMMARY

2. USSR REP (LIKHACHEV), OPENING JULY 14 INFORMAL MEETING
ON CCD PROGRAM OF WORK, SAID THAT IN CONSIDERING THE QUESTION

OF ESTABLISHING WORKING GROUPS TO CONDUCT MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS IT IS NECESSARY TO ASK WHETHER THERE NOW ARE GROUNDS FOR PREPARING THE TEXT OF AN AGREEMENT, AND WHETHER A REALISTIC STARTING POINT IS NOW AT HAND. ANSWERING NO TO BOTH THESE QUESTIONS, THE SOVIET REP REFERRED TO CCD'S PROCEDURAL DECISION OF APRIL 21 AND STATED THAT THE SEVERAL CHEMICAL WEAPONS (CW) DRAFT TREATIES NOW ON THE TABLE CANNOT REALLY BE CONSIDERED A BASIS FOR PRODUCTIVE WORK, BECAUSE IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO COMBINE THEM. IN VIEW OF THE INTENSIVE BILATERAL (US, USSR) CONSULTATIONS ON CW, AS WELL AS THE TRILATERAL (US, UK, USSR) CONSULTATIONS ON COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN (CTB) WHICH ARE NOW BEGINNING, THE USSR REP SAID IT WOULD BE BETTER TO RETURN TO THE QUESTION OF ESTABLISHING NEGOTIATING WORKING GROUPS LATER, WHEN THE ESSENTIAL PRECONDITIONS HAVE EMERGED.

3. THE SOVIET REP, REFERRING TO THE REVISED PROPOSAL FOR CCD'S PROGRAM OF WORK WHICH HAD JUST BEEN CIRCULATED BY THE CO-CHAIRMEN (US, USSR), CALLED ATTENTION TO THE TWO PRINCIPAL MODIFICATIONS: (A) A NEW PARAGRAPH AT THE END OF THE TEXT RELATING TO PLENARY MEETINGS --"FURTHER, PURSUANT TO THE DECISION OF 29 APRIL 1977, AS WELL AS THE RELEVANT DISCUSSIONS OF THIS DECISION IN THE COMMITTEE, THE CO-CHAIRMEN NOTE THAT THE COMMITTEE MAY WISH TO DISCUSS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AD HOC WORKING GROUPS AT ANY APPROPRIATE TIME IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROCEDURAL DECISION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF 21 APRIL"; AND (B) AN EXPANDED DESCRIPTION OF THE INFORMAL MEETINGS ON CW, RESCHEDULED FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 22 THROUGH 26 -- "INFORMAL MEETINGS OF CCD, WITH PARTICIPATION OF EXPERTS ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS (MAY INCLUDE CONSIDERATION OF THE ORGANIZATION AND SCHEDULING OF THE COMMITTEE'S FURTHER WORK TOWARD THE FORMULATION OF A BAN ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS)." THIS REVISED SCHEDULE, THE SOVIET REP SAID, WOULD ENVISAGE ENDING CCD'S SUMMER SESSION ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 30. THE CO-CHAIRMEN HOPE IT WILL PROVE ACCEPTABLE AND CAN BE ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS AT THE NEXT PLENARY MEETING, ON JULY 19.

4. THE SOVIET REP STATED TWO OBJECTIONS TO THE UK PROPOSAL FOR AN EXPERTS GROUP TO CONSIDER DEFINITIONS OF CW AGENTS AND TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF CW STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION. POLITICALLY, LIKHACHEV SAID, CREATING SUCH A TECHNICAL GROUP WOULD BE A STEP BACKWARD, BECAUSE WHAT IS NEEDED NOW IS PROGRESS TOWARD AGREEMENT ON THE ELEMENTS OF A CW BAN, NOT FURTHER TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS. PRACTICALLY, THE USSR REP ADDED, CREATING SUCH A GROUP WOULD GREATLY STRAIN SOVIET RESOURCES IN TERMS OF CW EXPERTS, WHO WILL CONTINUE TO BE WORKING INTENSIVELY ON MATTERS RELATED TO BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE US AND WHO SHOULD NOT BE DIVERTED FROM THEIR

MAIN TASK.

5. US REP (FISHER), DECLARING THAT HE CAN UNDERSTAND AND SYMPATHIZE WITH THE DESIRE OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO "GET ON WITH IT", INDICATED THAT USG CANNOT AGREE TO CREATING ANY NEGOTIATING WORKING GROUPS AT THIS TIME,

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BECAUSE IT IS CLEAR NO AGREED BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS EXISTS.
IN FACT, THE US REP SAID, WORKING GROUPS WOULD TEND TO
HARDEN THE DIFFERENCES OF VIEWS, MAKING IT EVEN MORE
DIFFICULT TO REACH AGREEMENT ON KEY ELEMENTS WHICH COULD
LEAD TO MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS. THE US WOULD EXPECT THE
CCD TO CONDUCT SUCH NEGOTIATIONS, BY MEANS OF WORKING GROUPS,
WHenever THE BILATERAL CW CONSULTATIONS AND/OR THE TRILATERAL
CTB TALKS LEAD TO AGREEMENT ON KEY ELEMENTS. ON THE OTHER
HAND THE US HAS NO WAY OF PREDICTING WHEN THIS WILL OCCUR.

6. THE US REP SAID HE COULD NOT AGREE TO THE SWEDISH
SUGGESTION TO PLACE ON THE AGENDA A DISCUSSION OF THE

CREATION OF WORKING GROUPS DURING THE WEEK OF JULY 25 THROUGH
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29, BECAUSE THAT WOULD IMPLY THAT THE END OF JULY WOULD HAVE
SOME SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE IN THIS REGARD, WHICH IS UNLIKELY
TO BE THE CASE. BESIDES, AS STATED BY THE JAPANESE REP
WHEN CCD TOOK ITS DECISION OF APRIL 29, THE COMMITTEE MAY
DECIDE TO CREATE A WORKING GROUP AT ANY TIME WHEN THERE IS
A BASIS FOR ITS ESTABLISHMENT.

7. ON THE UK SUGGESTION FOR A CW EXPERTS GROUP, THE US REP
SAID THAT DEFINITIONS OF CW AGENTS AND CHARACTERISTICS
OF CW STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION ARE NOT REALLY MATTERS OF
SCIENTIFIC DISPUTE; INSTEAD, HE INDICATED, THE QUESTIONS
ARE POLITICAL ONES -- HOW TO DEAL WITH THESE ISSUES IN
THE CONTEXT OF A CW TREATY. ANY TRULY TECHNICAL CONSIDERA-
TIONS, HE SAID, COULD BE RAISED IN THE INFORMAL MEETINGS
DURING THE WEEK OF AUGUST 22 THROUGH 26. IN CONCLUSION,
THE US REP JOINED HIS SOVIET COLLEAGUES IN EXPRESSING THE
HOPE THAT CCD WILL BE ABLE TO ADOPT A COMPROMISE PROGRAM
OF WORK AT ITS NEXT PLENARY MEETING.

8. MEXICAN REP (GARCIA ROBLES) PROPOSED COMBINING DISCUSSIONS
OF CCD PROCEDURES WITH DISCUSSIONS RELATING TO A COMPREHENSIVE
NEGOTIATING PROGRAM (CNP), PLANNED FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 15
THROUGH 19. US REP (FISHER) SAID HE WAS UNAWARE OF ANY NEW
SUGGESTIONS REGARDING CCD ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURES AND
THAT IN VIEW OF THE EXTENDED DISCUSSIONS OF THIS SUBJECT IN
APRIL HE SAW NO REAL REASON TO SCHEDULE MORE.

9. REPS OF SWEDEN (THORSSON), YUGOSLAVIA (DJOKIC), AND
PAKISTAN (SAWLLEM), REFERRING TO THE NEW PARAGRAPH ON WORKING
GROUPS CONTAINED IN THE CO-CHAIRMEN'S REVISED PROPOSAL FOR
CCD'S PROGRAM OF WORK (SEE PARA 3 ABOVE), RECOMMENDED
DELETION OF THE WORD "APPROPRIATE," SAYING THAT THE WORDING
IS AMBIGUOUS AND MIGHT BE CONSTRUED TO MEAN THAT THE QUESTION
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OF WORKING GROUPS COULD NOT BE RAISED UNLESS A CONVENIENT
TIME FOR DISCUSSING IT WERE READILY AVAILABLE. MEXICAN REP
(GARCIA ROBLES) PROPOSED FOLLOWING REVISED WORDING OF
THAT SAME PARAGRAPH: "FURTHER, PURSUANT TO THE DECISION
OF 29 APRIL 1977, AS WELL AS THE RELEVANT DISCUSSIONS OF
THIS DECISION IN THE COMMITTEE, THE CO-CHAIRMEN NOTE THAT
THE COMMITTEE MAY DISCUSS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AD HOC
WORKING GROUPS AT ANY TIME UPON REQUEST BY ANY OF ITS MEMBERS".

10. US REP (FISHER) SAID HE VIEWS THE PHRASE "APPROPRIATE TIME" AS REFERRING TO ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUPS, NOT TO CCD DISCUSSIONS OF SUCH A POSSIBILITY. HE WOULD CONSULT WITH THE OTHER CO-CHAIRMAN IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER IMPROVEMENTS IN DRAFTING COULD BE MADE.

11. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION THE NEXT INFORMAL MEETING ON CCD'S PROGRAM OF WORK WAS SCHEDULED FOR 10:00 A.M., TUESDAY, JULY 19, IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE REGULAR PLENARY SESSION.

12. COMMENT: A NUMBER OF SPEAKERS EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT CONSENSUS IS NEAR, AND US DEL BELIEVES IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO WORK OUT MODIFICATIONS TO CO-CHAIRMEN'S LATEST DRAFT WHICH WILL ACHIEVE CONSENSUS.VANDEN HEUVEL

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